

**PATENT
AMENDMENT**

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated April 15, 2005, the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-14, and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,370,629 to Hastings et al ("Hastings"); and (ii) rejected claims 4, 6, 9, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hastings.

In response, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 14-17; and added new Claims 19-20. Claims 1-20 will be pending after entry of this Amendment.

I. Rejections under 102(e) and 103(a)

The present invention is generally directed at enabling access to an electronic device using a password specific to a geographic position. As explained in the background section, prior art systems such as Shimada and Hastings, restrict access to the data by two independent tests: first, the password entered must be the correct password for that data; and second, the requesting device must be in an allowable location. In the present invention, in contrast, the password itself is associated with the geographic location. Thus, for example, the same user may need different passwords to access the same electronic device when at home than when at work.

E.g., pg. 3, lines 9-20

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for initiating the Interview conducted on April 13, 2005 in which he suggested that Applicant replace the terms 'geographically associated' and 'geographic-specific,' with the term "geographically-unique." Although Applicant respectfully believes that this change is unnecessary - the Federal Circuit has recently reaffirmed in *Phillips v. AWH Corp.*, ___ USPQ2d ___ (Fed. Cir. 2005) that claim terms should be interpreted in light of the specification - Applicant made the suggested amendment to put the Application in condition for allowance. Support for the geographic* passwords of the present invention can be found at:

- *Title: "Password Value Based on Geographic Location"*

Docket No.: ROC920000240US1
Serial No.: 09/804,358

PATENT
AMENDMENT

- *Abstract:* describing one aspect of the present invention as “[a]n electronic processing device . . . [that] can be enable[d] only when a geographic-specific password is entered. . . . When the user inputs a password, the electronic device determines if the password is appropriate for the current location. If not, access is denied.”
- *Pg. 1, lines 2-4:* stating that the present invention “relates to enabling an electronic device using a password associated with a geographic position.”
- *Pg. 3, lines 19-20:* distinguishing Shimada because “[t]he password itself is not associated with the geographic location.”
- *Pg. 4, lines 23-25:* stating “[t]here is thus a need . . . to restrict access to an electronic processing device by simply entering a password based on geographic location.”
- *Pg. 13, lines 7-12:* stating that Figure 2 shows “a user interface by which the user can implement [a] location-specific password Given a user interface, . . . a user can move the boundaries of a geographic location or enter the coordinates . . . of a region 212 for which he/she wishes to implement a specific password.”
- *Pg. 13, lines 20-21:* stating that “the user presents a password for each of the regions.”
- *Figure 3:* showing a table of records that correlate a geographic location with a password.
- *Page 14, lines 11-12:* explaining that “the region having the highest priority is the one that determines the password required to gain access to the devices and/or a specific function.”
- *Pg. 14 line 27- pg. 15, line 1:* explaining that “[f]igure 5 is a simplified flow chart of the process by which to use the geographic-specific passwords in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention.”
- *Pg. 15, lines 9-12:* explaining that “[t]he process in step 580 compares the entered password with the passwords associated with the regions of highest priority in the geographic location. There may be several regions of equal priority associated with a

Docket No.: ROC920000240US1
Serial No.: 09/804,358

9

PATENT
AMENDMENT

particular geographic location. In this case in the preferred embodiment, the user can enter either password to gain access."

II. Miscellaneous Amendments


Applicant has also amended Claims 1 and 14-17 to improve readability. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments do not affect the scope of the claims.

III. Conclusion

It is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance and a prompt and favorable allowance of all claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner, upon considering this amendment, thinks that a telephone interview would be helpful in expediting allowance of the present application, he/she is respectfully urged to call the Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Date: July 15, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Grant A. Johnson
Registration No.: 42,696

From: IBM Corporation
Intellectual Property Law
Dept. 917, Bldg. 006-1
3605 Highway 52 North
Rochester, MN 55901

Telephone: (507)253-4660
Fax: (507)253-2382

Docket No.: ROC920000240US1
Serial No.: 09/804,358

10